

***Pachyphytum fittkai* - two forms ?**

P. fittkai has been discovered by Father Hans Fittkau of Mexico City. January 25, 1968, he took Reid Moran to the two places in Guanajuato where he had found it : At 10 miles east of San Luis de la Paz, 2100 m, on west-facing cliffs plants were rather scarce while at 13 miles east of San Luis de la Paz at the same elevation but on south-facing cliffs plants were abundant. In November of the same year 1968 Glass & Foster found the plant also in adjacent San Luis Potosi (north exposure on mountain just north of Balneario de Lourdes). And later Charles Uhl found a plant which most likely was also *P. fittkai* 3 miles west of Lourdes.

The plants showed some variation in leaf size and proportions, also in the size of the flowers, but not in flower colour which Moran described as “deep pink ventrally in the upper half and scarcely lighter at the tips, somewhat paler dorsally” (Cact. & Succ. J. US 43(1) : 26-32, ill., 1971).

In 1983 the ISI distributed a *P. fittkai* (n° 1405) as “rooted cuttings of plants collected in 1972 by Glass and Foster near the type locality, ca. 13 miles E. of San Luis de la Paz, Guanajuato, Mexico,” – that means 11 years after the plant had been collected in the wild.

It is interesting that the flowers of the ISI *P. fittkai* do not match the description by Moran – their petals are ventrally pink and almost white at apex ! In addition also the rosettes are somewhat different. Whether *P. fittkai* is more variable than Moran thought when describing it or whether the ISI plant is not the true species *P. fittkai* but a hybrid with another *Pachyphytum* species, possibly with *P. viride* is an open question. As the plant brought back by Glass &

Foster in 1972 had been collected near the type locality it is unlikely that it had already been a hybrid.